

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of April 27, 2006.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this First Response, claims 1-12 and 15-21 remain pending in this application, and claims 1-12 and 16-21 are allowed. The specification and claims 15 and 16 are directly amended herein, and claims 13 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

The cancellation of claims 13 and 14 serves to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 13 and 14 in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

Response to Claim Objections

Claim 16 is objected to as containing an alleged informality. Applicants assert that claim 16 has been amended herein thereby mooting the objection to this claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 16 be withdrawn.

Response to §112 Rejections

Claims 13-15 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled mooted the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections of these claims. Further, claim 15 has been amended herein, and it is believed that the amendments to claim 15 moot the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of this claim. In particular, in incorporating the features of claim 13 into claim 15, the phrase “the one communication line” has been changed to “the first communication line.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 13-15 be withdrawn.

Response to §102 Rejections

Claims 13 and 14 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Klayman* (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,365). However, claims 13 and 14 have been canceled herein mooted the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections of these claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections of claims 13 and 14 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 and 16-21 have been allowed, and Claim 15 has been indicated as allowable by the outstanding Office Action if this claim is rewritten to include the limitations of its base claims 13 and 14. Accordingly, pending claim 15 has been amended herein to include the features of its base claims, and Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 15 be withdrawn.

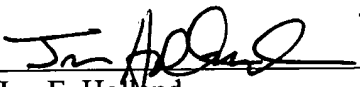
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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